

ence in tolerance of the two oils is surprising since the chemical nature of olive oil and corn oil is very similar. Tests of the levels of free fatty acids and pH do not indicate any significant differences which could account for the decreased tolerance for olive oil. Substitution of purified olive oil, Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, Mo., or first press olive oil, for the Berio brand olive oil, obtained from the grocery store, which was used initially, does not eliminate the irritation.

Modifications and variations of the present invention, an improved cyclosporine composition for topical ophthalmic use, will be obvious to those skilled in the art from the foregoing detailed description of the invention. Such modifications and variations are intended to come within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A topical ophthalmic composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of cyclosporin in corn oil.

2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the concentration of cyclosporine is between about 0.01% and saturation.

3. The composition of claim 1 further comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of vitamin A, vitamin E, retinoic acid, pilocarpine, hyaluronic acid, polyvinyl alcohol, methylcellulose, methyl

paraben, edoisoisn, physalaemin, bromhexine, mucosolvan, acetylcysteine, indomethacin, and corticosteroids.

4. The composition of claim 1 comprising 2% cyclosporine in corn oil.

5. The composition of claim 4 further comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of alpha tocopherol and methyl paraben.

6. The composition of claim 1 wherein said composition is encapsulated.

7. The composition of claim 6 wherein said composition is encapsulated within a polymeric matrix.

8. The composition of claim 7 wherein said composition is encapsulated within a polymeric matrix formed of a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polystyrene, polypropylene, polyanhydrides, polyorthoester, polylactic acid, and polyglycolic acid.

9. The composition of claim 6 wherein said composition is encapsulated within liposomes.

10. The composition of claim 6 wherein said composition is microencapsulated.

11. The composition of claim 1 wherein said cyclosporine is in a concentration which stimulates or restores lacrimal gland activity.

12. The composition of claim 1 wherein said cyclosporine is in a concentration which suppresses an immune disorder of the eye.

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